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TO THE
Supreme Authority of the Nation,
THE
PARLIAMENT
OF
THE COMMON-WEALTH
OF
ENGLAND.

THE
Humble Petition of the Lord Mayor, Alder-
men, and Commons of the City of *Lon-*
don, in Common Councell assembled.

• *With the Answer.*

Printed by *James Flesher*, Printer to the Honourable
City of London. 1653.

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The Commonwealth of ENGLAND.

The humble Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London in Common Councell assembled.

Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioners doe in all humility, and thankfulnessse acknowledge the infinite goodnesse of God to this Nation, in the free passage of the Gospel for neer one hundred years together; and the Peace, Plenty, and Prosperity that it hath brought with it: and that all along God hath raised up Pious, Learned, and Painfull Preachers of the Gospel, whose labours God hath blessed in the converting of Thousands, and defending of the truth against Popery, Errors, and Heresies, although very much opposed and persecuted by a Popish, Prelaticall Party.

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Your Petitioners doe likewise acknowledge (amongst many worthy things done by the late Parliament) the tender care they had of all able, faithfully godly Ministers, in setting them at liberty from their former Persecutors, and giving them all Encouragement in the Exercise of their Ministry, and by adding towards their maintenance a considerable Revenue over and above what was anciently settled by Law; They also encouraged Learning, by reforming the Universities, and increasing the maintenance of the Governours of Colledges, where there was need; And what a mercy is it like to prove to the Nation, there being so many hopefull Plants, that in a short time (by the blessing of God) may be fit for publike service: And while they were thus promoting the Interest of Christ, how did the Lord blesse their Councils and Forces by Land and Sea, to the admiration of their Friends and Enemies both at home and abroad?

But as heretofore there never wanted Instruments to vilifie, oppose, persecute or undermine the faithful Ministers, and preaching of the Gospel, so of late years, yea, at this day, what scorn and contempt is cast upon them? and what endeavours are used by Petitioning and otherwise to destroy the Universities, and undermine the Preaching of the Gospel, by taking away that ancient settled Maintenance which hath been Owned and Acknowledged as their due, by all Parliaments and Courts of Justice time out of minde: And if the Jesuites, and those that are Popishly affected (of which we have cause to fear there are many in this Nation) succeed in their present Coun-

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Councils and Practices and disaffecting the Nation, to the Universities and Learning, and the profitable use of it, in the Preaching of the Gospel, and confuting errors; And likewise shall prevail in removing the present settled maintenance which is earnestly endeavoured by them; And perswade that the Civil Magistrate hath nothing to doe in matters of Religion: They will then be in a very great forwardnesse to attain that design they have had against this Nation, ever since the first Reformation from Popery.

Now though the Consideration of all these things lies sad upon our hearts, we cannot but with thankfulness acknowledge that there is a supreme Power over us, to whom we have incouragement to make our humble addresse; Who have been pleased so publickly and affectionately to declare, That you will be as tender of the Lives, estates, Liberties, just rights and proprieties of all others, as ye will be of your own and of your Posterities. And further that you cannot but acknowledge that ye are not yet at rest, nor can believe ye have yet enjoyed or seen enough to accomplish the end of God, or satisfie the thoughts of men, for that vast expence of blood and Treasure which could not have been endured with any patience; But in hope, that at length those bitter pangs and throwes would make some way for that long expected birth of Peace, Freedome, and Happinesse, both to the souls and bodies of the Lords people; And while we are waiting for the fruit of such pious resolutions, it cannot but be much grief of heart, and regret of spirit to your Petitioners, to have this Parliament unworthily traduced and reflected

upon by some persons which we humbly conceive, do directly tend to the gratifying of the common enemy, the raising of Sedition, disturbing of the present Government, and destruction of this Common-wealth.

The premises considered,

Your Petitioners doe humbly pray, that care be taken that the pretious truths of the Gospel, which hath been the blessed portion of this Nation so many years, may be preserved in their purity, that the faithfull dispensers thereof, being men Learned, Godly, and void of offence, may receive all due encouragement. And that such (being so approved) may be sent forth to preach the Gospel.

That the seiled maintenance by the Laws of the Land for them, may be further confirmed; And that the Acts and Ordinances of Parliament formerly made to this purpose may be put in execution: and such other provision made that their just proprieties may be preserved.

That the Universities also that are the Seminaries of all sorts of Literature, so eminently usefull for this Common-wealth; both in respect of Civil Government, and also the propagating and defending the blessed truths of the Gospel, may be zealously countenanced and encouraged,

*All which we humbly submit to your
Grave and Pious consideration
And shall ever pray.*

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Friday the 2^d of September 1653.

TH E Petitioners were called in, and being come to the Barre, Mr Speaker by Command of the House did return thanks to the Petitioners for their good affections to the Parliament, and acquainted them that some of the matters in the Petition are under consideration, and as touching that which concerns the traducing the Parliament, the Petitioners are referred to the Councell of State to give Informations to them therein, and that the Parliament doth not doubt but they will continue their care of the peace and safety of the City.

*Hen: Scobell Clerke of
the Parliament.*

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